

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7
6/6/2013



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been generally good with reports from Candlewood Lake (good), Batterson Park Pond (fair to good, catches include a 4.5 lb bass), Bigelow Pond (some nice catches reported), Gardner Lake (good, best during the evening), Crystal Lake (fair- some action), Lake Hayward, Highland Lake (good, with several 4 lb plus fish among the catches), Quonnipaug Lake (some "large fish" among the catches), Hatch Pond (good), Mudge Pond (good early, fair later in the day), Wononscopomuc Lake (good), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Lake Housatonic (fair, but several bass in the 3-4 lb range) and Lake Zoar (slow). **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair during the day, 3.4 lbunker, good at night, with a 5 lb bass among the catches), Lake Zoar (fair to tough), Mansfield Hollow Lake (good, with a 4.6 lbunker), Highland Lake (very good, 3.7 lbunker), Bantam Lake (good, 4.75 lbunker), Moodus Reservoir (good fishing, mostly 1 lb or so fish and a 5.25 lbunker), Candlewood Lake (good action, several 5 lb plus fish), East Twin Lake (good, fish averaged 2 lbs apiece with a 5.1 lbunker) and Winchester Lake (fair for "keepers" with lots of 8-12 inch bass "in excellent condition" getting caught, 6.75 lbunker). Also some good fishing is being found in smaller ponds and shallow lakes, try wacky rigged senkos & frogs, or spinner baits (single or double blade, chartreuse & white).

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake (continues to be good to very good), Squantz Pond (fair), Gardner Lake (hard to find) and Highland Lake (fair). **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Zoar (fair to good, with some nice aggressive smallies averaging 2 lbs apiece, 3.4 and 3.2 lbunkers), Candlewood Lake (good during the day with a number in the 3-4 lb range and a 4.25 lbunker, very good at night including a 4.75 lbunker) and Bantam Lake (some action for anglers targeting smallmouth).

CHANNEL CATFISH – Limited reports for catfishing from last weekend. Anglers were finding some, albeit slow, action at Wauregan Reservoir and it was reportedly difficult to get a bite at Lake Wintergreen. Anglers should be finding lots of catfish at Lakewood Lake. Other recently stocked waters to try include Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Freshwater Pond (Enfield) and Pickett's Pond (in Osborndale State Park, Derby). Black Pond (Middlefield), Maltby Lakes 2 & 3

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2013 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



(Orange/West Haven), Pattaconk Lake (Chester), Silver Lake (Meriden), Hopeville Pond (Griswold), Stillwater Pond (Torrington) and Lake Kenosia (Danbury). Additionally, stocked (9-12 inch fish) for the first time are four new areas; Batterson Park Pond (Farmington/New Britain) Burr Pond (Torrington), Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) and Uncas Lake (Lyme).

CARP were reported Lake Zoar and the French River.

WALLEYE –Anglers are finding fish at Squantz Pond, although it was a bit quiet last weekend. Some good action was found trolling (20-30 feet) at night for ‘eyes (including 2.3 and 6.5 lb fish). Some catches also reported from Saugatuck Reservoir and Lake Saltonstall.

NORTHERN PIKE – Pike anglers have been finding decent action at Quaddick Lake and Bantam Lake. Other places to try include Winchester Lake, Hopeville Pond and Pachaug Pond.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Conditions for fishing will vary throughout the state. Flows in most areas are at or above (still well above in several areas) typical early June levels (see box on page 4) and the forecast includes the potential for significant rainfall in portions of the northeast over the next 36 hours with clearing by Sunday. Anglers should keep smaller streams and tributaries in mind as they’ll drop quickest (streamflows for a number of areas can be found at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>).

Good reports from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River (Unionville area, nothing very large), Shepaug River, Salmon River and Fivemile River. The Hammonasset River is providing fair action, and things have been quiet on the West River. In line spinners and flies (try smaller BWO’s, caddis) have been working well in the east.

Farmington River – West Branch flows are clearing and fishable, but on the high side, currently 590 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 175 cfs. Depending on precipitation amounts, the river may rise to uncomfortable levels for the start of the weekend.

Hatches/patterns include *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00 pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#16-18), Sulfurs (*Invaria* #14-18 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #18-20), Green caddis (#16-18) and March Brown (#10-14). Evenings look for rusty spinners (#12-20). Streamers and nymphing are working well.

Housatonic River – The high flows that made the river unfishable for much of last week have dropped to fishable levels, currently 1,440 cfs at Falls Village and 2,330 cfs at Gaylordsville. Flows are also beginning to clear and water temperatures are now back in the low to mid 60’s °F (mornings). However, forecasts include the possibility of significant precipitation in some

FARMINGTON RIVER DIDYMO REMINDER

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, is currently “blooming” (undergoing rapid growth) in the West Branch Farmington River between Route 20 and the confluence with the Still River (Riverton area). Monthly surveys have been on-going since the first documentation of didymo in March of 2011. Since that time, many other algae been observed blooming at different times of the year throughout the river, but expansion of didymo has not been noted.

Anyone recreating in the river and who comes in contact with didymo can potentially transport didymo to other waters. The microscopic cells can easily cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions. For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies.

We would like to hear from you if you suspect you have found didymo outside of the Riverton area. Please remember that didymo is typically found in cold, shallow streams with rocky substrate. The microscopic didymo cell produces a stalk to attach to the substrate. Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of stalk material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color. Please contact the Inland Fisheries Division at 860-424-Fish or email a photo and location of the observation to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov. If you would like to participate in a citizen monitoring program for didymo observations please see detail on www.threerivers.edu/didymo.

areas over the next 36 hours so flows may again increase to unfishable levels depending on rainfall patterns. Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information.

Hatches/patterns include Alder caddis (#10-12), Sulphurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, cloudy days; early morning; spinner fall in evening), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#10-12, evening), green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), March Brown (#10-12, spinner), Gray Foxes (#10-12) and golden stoneflies.

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers continue to find some nice trout fishing, with reports from Candlewood Lake (trolling deep at 5 ½ colors has found some good action including 6 & 5.5 lb trout, jigging slow is also working), Quonnipaug Lake (some action, nothing large), Cedar Lake (catches here include a 26 inch, 8 lb brown trout), Highland Lake (good trolling deep, 20-35 feet) and Crystal Lake (troll deep).

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Conditions last week slowed many anglers. Currently, flows remain on the cool side, have cleared and have dropped to more manageable levels (still on the high side, but great for checking out those hard to access coves and shallows). Depending on the track of the remnants of Tropical Storm Andrea, flows may increase again this weekend. **STRIPED BASS** have tapered off, but can still be found throughout the river up to Windsor, with some sizeable catches still being reported (sandworms are working well). Many anglers are beginning to shift attention to the mouth, lots of bunker to use for bait, and lots of bait in the water. Live bait is working well here (try eels at night). **CHANNEL CATFISH** continue to provide some action throughout the river (as almost always, big chunk bait works). Good reports for **NORTHERN PIKE** from the Hartford/Wethersfield/Glastonbury coves. Fish have been found close up to shore. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are also being found by boat anglers in the coves in the Hartford area coves. Good action also reported from Salmon River Cove and Chapmans Pond.

NOTES & NOTICES:

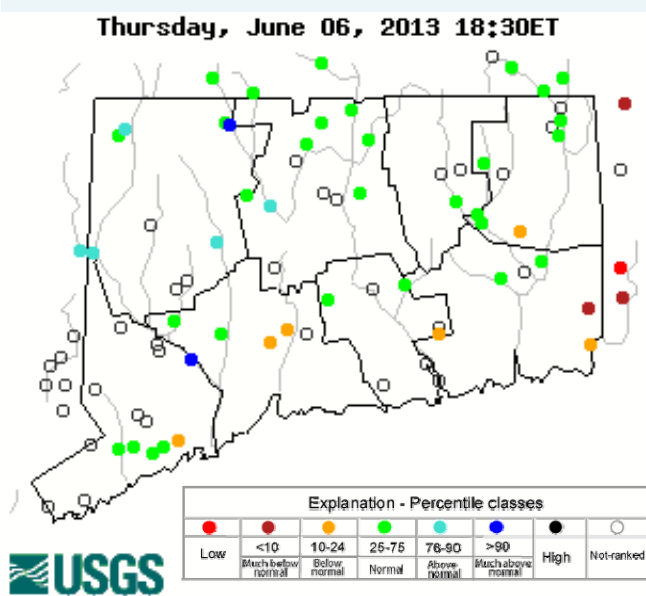
COVENTRY LAKE - Triathlon training will be conducted from 7:00 am to 9:00 am on Saturday, June 8th. The course will run from Patriots Park to the island at the northwestern end of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

GLASGO POND - A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Sunday, June 9th, from 9:30 am through 1:30 pm. Boaters should use extra caution during the event (the course laps both Glasgo Pond and Doanneville Pond). Although this event will be using the state boat launch on Glasgo Pond, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

MANSFIELD HOLLOW LAKE – A high school hovercraft race is being held at Mansfield Hollow Lake on Saturday, June 8th (raindate: Sunday, June 9th) from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Although the race will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

LAKE LILLINONAH- Lake Lillinonah is currently being drawn down approximately 6.5 feet from its typical minimum summer level as a flood control measure due to current Housatonic River flows and the additional rains (possibly significant) in the forecast. **The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats will not be possible.** Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake levels (and Housatonic River flow) information

Streamflow conditions as of 6/6/2013



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25th or less are considered to be "below normal".

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

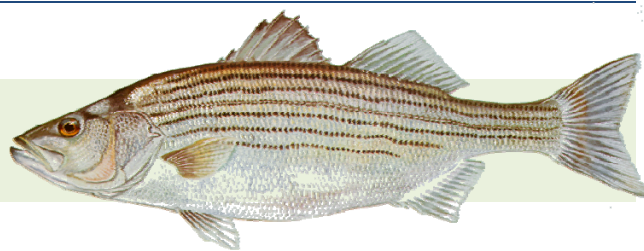
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range are in the high 50's to low 60's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing is good to excellent at many of the reefs and rip areas throughout LIS in addition to the tidal rivers. Dawn has been prime time for "cow" bass. A striper weighing just shy of 60 lbs was caught over this past week. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Watch Hill area, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, the Race, Bartlett Reef, Millstone warm water discharge, Black Point, humps south of Hatchett Reef, Connecticut River (on the flood tide), Long Sand Shoal, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Charles Island/Milford area, Housatonic River, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and the reefs off Stamford.

BLUEFISH fishing is good at the Watch Hill reefs, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Gardiners Bay, lower Thames River, Millstone warm water discharge, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, New Haven Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is rated good overall with reports of doormats approaching the double digit mark in pounds! Western LIS has been pretty hot lately from the Housatonic River down to the Greenwich area. Other fluke spots include south side of Fishers Island, Stonington area in Fishers Island Sound, mouth of the Thames River, Niantic Bay including Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, and Charles Island/Milford area.

SCUP fishing remains fair to good on the major reefs throughout LIS.

WEAKFISH have been reported in the New Haven Harbor area, Milford/Charles Island area and off the mouth of the Housatonic River.

2013 BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM

- In 2013 DEEP is issuing free vouchers to anglers fishing Connecticut waters (both Inland and Marine) to take 4,025 striped bass in a size range (at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches) below the current recreational minimum length for stripers in CT.
- Each voucher allows the angler to keep one "bonus" striper and can be used anywhere on Connecticut waters. The vouchers are valid through June 30, 2013.
- Vouchers can be obtained in person at a number of DEEP Offices (all that sell licenses, plus several coastal state parks and Dinosaur SP - *for a complete list, see link below*), from DEEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers, and from Riverfront Recapture Rangers.
- Anglers can obtain one voucher per day and use a maximum of two vouchers per day to keep "bonus" fish.
- Use of these vouchers does not affect an angler's ability to keep their regular daily limit of striped bass. Each angler participating in the program can also keep up to two striped bass a day, 28 inches or larger in total length.

For more information, visit: [Bonus Striper Vouchers](#) or call: 860-424-3474 or 860-434-6043

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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www.ct.gov/deep

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.